HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Volume II No. 6 - June, 2003

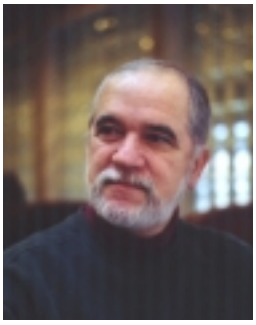
From The President's Desk

WHERE HAS THE JAR GONE?

Excuses and forgiveness for the use of the above "coined phrase" but I find it appropriate to this month's topic.

Many of us will be involved in Field Day and we will have the opportunity to talk to a lot of "Non Hams" who we hope, will come to visit our various field sites. What will we tell these innocents? Will we meander the path of misinformation by telling them of "traffic handling", "Elmers", "contacts", "SWR", "dipoles", "verticals", "bands", and other sundry terms that while endearing to us mean nothing like what we expect to the uninitiated? What do you think comes to mind when some one hears of "traffic handling?" A clear picture was drawn by an analogy on the PIO list server… to most people "traffic handling" conjures up visions of men with lighted wands corralling Fords, Chevrolets and Buicks! We need to get past that and talk about communications in plain language that describes in plain terms exactly what it is we do. As an example, we exchange information with other stations. During a "practice session" like Field Day, we exchange basic identification and location information. During a real emergency, we would transmit messages about the specific conditions and status of the emergency. We might be involved in exchanging information about injuries, or supplies, or the needs of a particular government official we are supporting with our Amateur Radio.

One of our many purposes is to let the general public find out about this wonderful hobby of ours. This hobby that allows us to relax in a QSO with a distant station – chew the rag with DX – see someone down the log – or have an eyeball QSO with the locals… If you say this to your visitor, I am sure at least some of them if not most of them will walk away shaking their heads…



Our President, Patrick Moretti W9UQ

Another point to remember is that Field Day is not the only time of the year to promote Amateur Radio. Look around you as you use your HT. Does someone look interested? Seek them out – encourage their questions – provide them with clear simple answers. Many times we are tempted to sound technical and important – as a result we loose the very audience we are trying to reach – the other folks that are just like us but don't have their radio yet! Let's just make sure the JAR GONE stays gone!

NEW SUBJECT – PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to welcome our old board members back, Pancho Doneis and Gerry Whalen, they are wonderful! Consider this: They already know how much work the job entails, yet they are willing to come back to it and continue shouldering that harness. That is great and should be rewarded with our thanks and admiration. Now to our new elected board member, Dick Wood, and our new appointed VP, Kevin Reeme. These guys saw a need and accepted the responsibility. They need your support and encouragement! Finally we must pause and give thanks to John Merkl. He has spent many hours working to support our club. His contributions and efforts have helped

Continued on pg 2

club officers

President	**(262) 965-3860**	
Patrick Moretti		W9UQ
Vice Pres.	**(262) 789-5333**	
Kevin Reeme		KC9BZU
Secretary	**(414) 529-2512**	
Tom Schulte		AB9EK
Treasurer	**(414) 357-6522**	
Mark Tellier		AB9CD

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis		KA9OFA
(03-05)	(414) 344-4694	
Tom Fuszard		KF9PU
(02-04)	(262) 789-7975	
Jerry Wahlen		WA9CGE
(03-05)	(414) 463-8667	
Brian White		K9LCQ
(02-04)	(262) 548-6138	
Dick Wood		W9JBE
(03-05)	(262) 542-5118	

HamateurChatter Editor
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
pancho@thepark.net
(414) 344-4694

HamateurChatter Mailings
Jerry Wahlen WA9CGE
(414) 463-8667

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 mtr. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth)
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifter's SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130	AMSAT net
Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	**8:30 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**145.390-**	**W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net after 10mtr.**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net Mon-Fri

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

Prez Cont. from pg. 1

make the club, your club, what it is today. To all of you past, present and future, I give thanks and congratulations!

73 es CU at FD!
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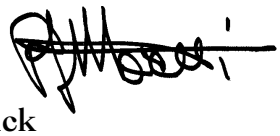


Patrick

W9UQ

New Member

Welcome our newst member, Daniel Merritt, KZ9W.

Recent VE Exams

MRAC VEC held VE testing on May 31, 2003 at AES. There were 15 candidates, and 10 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first license. Twelve exam elements were administered. VEs who participated in the session included the following:

Mark Bye KB9LDX
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Kraak KF9XL
Patrick Moretti W9UQ
Tom Schulte AB9EK

There will be no exam session in June. Our next VE session will be Saturday July 26, 2003 at 9:30AM at AES.

73,

John KF9XL

HamateurChatter

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is

(262) 797-MRAC or in numbers

(262) 797- 6 7 2 2.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December.

If you have articles or other correspondence for the 'Chatter, please contact Pancho Doneis at: (414) 344-4694 or Email me at: pancho@thepark.net

Membership Meeting May 29, 2003

Patrick, W9UQ the club's president, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. The microphone was passed for introductions.

The meeting was turned over to John Kraak to run the election for new Board members. The following were nominated in April for the Board, Pancho KA9OFA, Jerry WA9CGE and Dick W9JBE. There were no other nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and elect the above nominees. Motion passed. Congratulations to the new Board members. Patrick gave a thank you to John WB9PSE for his time that he had served on the Board.

John Kraak stated that there is VE testing on Saturday May 31st at AES. This is the last testing session before the new Technician class question pool takes effect on July 1st.

Tom, AB9EK the club's secretary, read the minutes of the April club meeting. Motion was made to approve the minutes as read. Minutes approved. Mark, AB9CD gave the treasurer report for the month of May. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report. Treasurer's report was approved.

Field Day is fast approaching. There will be a club meeting just before the event. Jerry, WA9CGE has directions to the Field Day location. Jerry stated that setup would start at 8:00am on Saturday June 28th and take down on Sunday June 29th around noon. The club will operate on 80 meters to 70cm. If you would like to bring any of your own equipment you are welcome to do so. The club's picnic will start on Saturday June 28th at 1:00pm and end around 5:00pm. The movie for Saturday night will be "Contact" and there will be popcorn.

Kevin, KC9BZU is chairman of the Membership committee. He has a questionaire that he would like members to fill out. Kevin wants to know what you like or don't like about the club, what could be improved, and if you have any ideas for club programs. The questionaire will be in the next Chatter. Patrick stated that he had received many comments on how improved the club's Chatter has become.

Mark, AB9CD stated that he has some printed copies of the 2003 club roster. If you receive the Chatter via e-mail you will also receive the roster the same way. Make sure you have given Mark your correct e-mail address. A letter was received from Fred Lynn explaining what has been going on with him. He stated he should be back on the air soon.

Tom KG9EE stated that he would be going to Bermuda for two weeks in September- October. If you would like to receive a QSL card from Tom in Bermuda, see him to set up a contact time.

K9JJ donated to the club some older club documents he had. Dave DeFebo will go through them and put them into the club's history file.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. Meeting adjourned. The club program for tonight is the annual club auction run by Dave DeFebo.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Schulte

Tom Schulte - AB9EK

Club Secretary

Upcoming Programs

Our June 26th meeting will feature Dick Wood giving a program on QRP.

Our July 31st meeting will feature- Mark Tellier - AB9CD with a program on tower raising or trunking scanners.

August 28th meeting will be Don Michalski talking about ARRL.

If any of you have a program which would be interesting to our members, please don't be shy about letting us know about it. Or if you know of an interesting program by anyone else for our meetings don't hesitate, let us know about these programs. We'll see what we can do.

Field Day site (Cedarburg train depot 10 mi north of Cedarburg on Hwy "I"

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)?

6

In this issue of the Chatter we continue to explore NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and why every household should own a weather alert radio. It should be considered as essential as a smoke alarm.

Are there any new developments under way for the NOAA Weather Radio network?

Several developments are under way. First, the National Weather Service continues to work with local communities, businesses and non-profit organizations to install NOAA Weather Radio transmitters in areas of the nation not currently served by NWR broadcasts.

Second, the NWS expects to begin installing a new automated broadcasting system in local NWS offices. These personal computer-based broadcasting consoles automatically turn written National Weather Service forecasts and warnings into synthesized-voice broadcasts. The process is expected to significantly reduce delays in producing NWR broadcasts and should have a positive impact on getting earlier warnings out to the NWR listening public and to emergency managers and the broadcast media who monitor NWR reports.

In addition, the NWS is beginning a program to build grass roots support for placing NOAA Weather Radio receivers in local schools and other public gathering places. The program will center around locally-formed NWR committees comprised of civic-minded leaders whose main goal will be to find funding sources to place NWR receivers in schools to give administrators fast access to changing weather conditions and severe weather alerts issued by their local NWS office.

Finally, the NWS has reached an agreement with King Features Syndicate to use nationally-syndicated comic strip character Mark Trail as the campaign symbol for educating the public about the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio program. Mark Trail will appear on posters and in other educational materials to help raise public awareness levels about the benefits of owning a NOAA Weather Radio receiver equipped with an alarm tone and SAME-capability.

This is the final installment about NWR I hope you found the series interesting and beneficial.

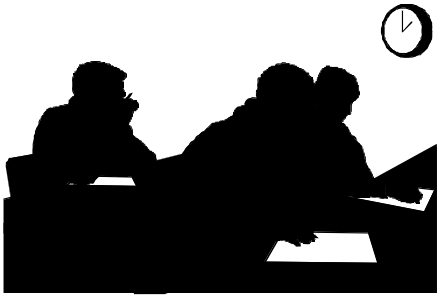
Brian K9LCQ

MRAC VEC - A Exam Schedule

Due to the scarcity of Examinations during the summer we have scheduled a special session on:

- Saturday, July 26, 2003
  9:30 AM – AES

AES is Amateur Electronics Supply and is located at 5700 W. Good Hope Rd. in Milwaukee, WI.



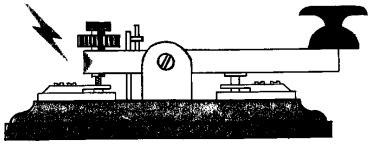
Exam Requirements

When coming to take an exam, please bring your present original license (if you have one) plus a copy for our records. Also bring any CSCE's (and a copy of each) which might pertain to the license upgrade for which you are striving. If you wish to apply for a grandfathered credit (for example, an old novice license credit for the EL-1 code exam) you must furnish written proof of this credit. Please bring along 2 forms of ID including one with your picture. The fee for the exam remains at $8.^{00}$. If you need to retake an exam element at the same session, a separate $8.^{00}$ fee is charged. Please bring a pen, pencils, and a simple, non-programmable calculator and no cell phones.

Thank you.

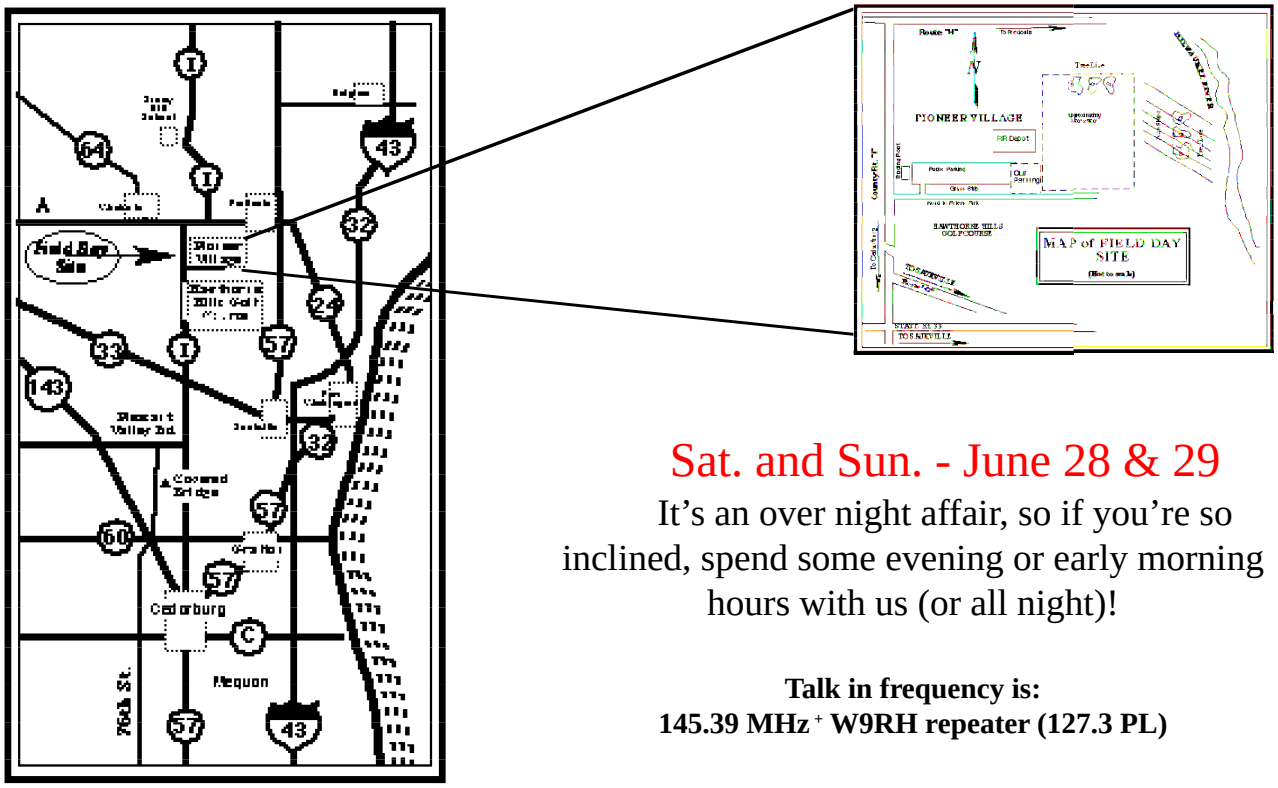
John (KF9KL)

John - KF9XL



Field Day

Welcome to our Field Day Site



Sat. and Sun. - June 28 & 29

It's an over night affair, so if you're so inclined, spend some evening or early morning hours with us (or all night)!

Talk in frequency is:
145.39 MHz⁺ W9RH repeater (127.3 PL)

Field Day is a 24 hour period in June (usually the last full weekend) set aside for fun and to see how we might do in an emergency, communications-wise.

This is an ARRL National event.

The group will get together and set up at least one station (probably more) on emergency power, (preferably out in the boondocks somewhere) and at 1800 UTC on Sat. they will start operating and gathering as many points (contacts) as possible.

Points are given for contacts with extra points being given for solar power, packet station contacts, etc.

On Sun. at noon, we stop operating and everything is taken down by whoever can be rounded up. Jerry WA9CGE gets the fun of calculating the points that our Club has earned.

It's a lot of fun and you learn a lot about your Club, Club members, operating a radio on VHF, HF and on various modes of communications (with which you may or may not be acquainted). You would even get a chance to see our famous ladder tower which is erected with a rotator and beam antenna on top.

Plans are shaping up for this year's ARRL Field Day. Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE is the chairman of the Field Day Committee for this year. If any of you out there would like to help out at the event, it would be greatly appreciated. Help is needed to set up, operate our station(s), and tear down. If interested, please, call Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE (414) 463-8667 or (797-MRAC) . If you have a license but no equipment to operate or would like to try out a new mode, here's your chance to get your feet wet. Also, here's an opportunity to set up a quasi-emergency radio station and to operate HF and VHF equipment from an authentic train depot, complete with telegraph equipment and a caboose. In the past we've had HF, VHF, CW, SSB, packet, and APRS stations. Think of it as an adventure!!!

Meals will be provided. Sleeping accommodations are a bit rough (depot benches - not very comfortable), so please, bring whatever you might be comfortable in (cot,blanket, sleeping bag, pillow, mosquito repellent). There is plenty of parking space, too.

This year's Field Day takes place on **Sat. - June 28 through Sun. - June 29** (officially, 1:00 PM our time on Sat. through 1:00 PM our time on Sun). We will be starting to setup around 8:30 AM. The location (arranged for by Fred Linn - W9NZF) is at Pioneer Village 10 mi. north of Cedarburg on Hwy "I".

Come on out for a couple of hours, over night, or for the whole event.

While you're out there, why not bring the family and visit the rest of Pioneer Village? It's well worth the trip. Field Day is a lot of fun!!!

Pancho - KA9OFA

DAYTON 2003 by Dick Wood - W9JBE

When I arrived at my motel there was already a bus load of hams from NJ and they were walking around looking at mobile antennas of other hams that (had) arrived Thurs. afternoon. That evening's entertainment was watching a total eclipse of the moon. We were lucky that the sky was clear and we could see the surface of the moon without binoculars. I took a video of it, but there was too much light and I couldn't focus very well.

My motel was 10 min. away from the convention site and I was concerned about parking since the only people who could park on the grounds were exhibitors and those who bought flea-market space. I got there early (7:30) and found a free place to park about one block from the grounds. I was also lucky to get an early $17 ticket from someone with an extra one ($22 at the door). The flea-market opened at 8:00 and everything else at 9:00 and so I spent my first hour looking at a very small percentage of the flea-market. One ham had mostly Collins gear and he said that the most sought after was the KWM2 (ssb transceiver) and it was going for $1,950.

I spent most of my time inside going to forums, looking at new gear and talking to people from most of the ham gear manufactures including UK and Germany. New product announcements included from ICOM's 7800 which looked like two 756 PROs stuck together. It was so new there was no literature out on it yet. It seems to be a second generation 781, price not known yet, but I heard about $8,000. Ten-Tec was showing off their high-end ORION (near $3,000) that uses both crystal roofing filters and IF-DSP bandwidth filtering. They also were showing their Titan III amplifier. Elecraft introduced its new series of VHF transverters.

A view of some of the things to see at the Dayton Hamvention 2003. Photo by Dick Wood.

There were 45 min. to 3 hr. forums including: DX, Regulations, Contesting, Digital modes, Youth Education, RFI, and Advanced Technologies. I went to Lightning Protection which emphasized the coiling of RF feedlines and the knotting of AC power lines. QRP was emphasizing the small differences in DB's in receiving and was presented by a UK ham who spent much time building rigs in very small containers. AMSAT included getting started in the satellites and Echo their latest satellite.

I only saw one ham from home (Ron Gorski - N9AU), but with 25,000 in attendance, there mat have been more. I did meet several that I talk to on a regular basis on QRP frequencies such as Bud Drummond - W3FF the developer of the BuddiPole portable dipole and Bonnie - KQ6XA who runs the HF Pack. QRP seems to be one of the fastest growing interests in ham radio. Their main interest is in portable operation as on bikes and pedestrian mobile.

At 1:00 PM and on Sat. 6:00 PM (pedestrian mobile with their antennas sticking out of their backpacks), started up on 18,157 and 7,242 kHz. The sound of autotuners and squawking SSB feedback was like a circus. We made contacts all over North America on 17 mtr. and we were fortunate that the band was opening up for us after about 3 weeks of bad propagation.

The only bad part of the convention was Sat. morning (when) it rained and most (people) came in from the flea-market. It was very crowded and made moving very slow inside.

Prices were about 10 to 15% lower than normal and AES had some of the best prices.

I think every ham should go at least once during their life to the biggest gathering of hams in the western hemisphere.

EVENTS

* indicates VEC Testing

VE Testing *

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Jun. 26, 2003
Program QRP by Dick Wood

ARRL Field Day
SAT. & SUN.- JUN. 28&29, 2003
Pioneer Village
Cedarburg, WI

KarsFest 2003
SUN. - JUL. 6, 2003
Will Co. Faigrounds
Peotone IL
T/I on 146.94- rptr.

SMARC SwapFest
SAT. - JUL. 12, 2003
American Legion Post 434
9327 S. Shepard Ave.
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 MHz simp.

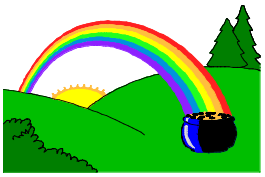
FRRL HamFest *
SUN. - JUL. 20, 2003
Waubonsee Community College
Sugar Grove, IL
T/I on 147..210+ PL 103.5/107.2 rptr.

MRAC General Meeting
Jul. 31, 2003

Circus City SwapFest *
SAT. - AUG. 9, 2003
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 147.315+ (PL123.0 Hz) rptr.

HamFester's Radio Club HamFest *
SUN. - AUG. 10, 2003
Will Co. Fairgrounds
Peotone, IL
T/I on 146.52 simp

Bolingbrook Amateur Radio
Society's HamFest *
SUN - AUG. 24, 2003
Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds
Jefferson, WI
T/I on 147.33+ & 224.54- rptr.s



Use it or lose it -- our Repeater.

145.390 MHz - offset and PL of 127.3Hz

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for year 2003 through August:

Thu. - Jun. 26, '03
Thu. - Jul. 31, '03
Thu. - Aug. 28, '03

See you there!

Pancho - KA9OFA

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9CD	W9JBE	W9UQ
AB9EK	K9LCQ	KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Mark Tellier for help in the proof-reading dept. Our thanks goes to Jerry Wahlen for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Alfred Huwald, Myron Hendrickson, and Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Thanks to Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE for hosting our Friday night nets and chairing the Field Day committee.

Special thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Thank YOU!

M.R.A.C.

Meetings are normally held the last Thursday of each month except in December.

Our next meeting is;

Thursday - June 26, 2003.

at 7:00 PM at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church

Attention!!!

Program for the Thursday - June 26, 2003 MRAC meeting will be a presentation by Dick Wood, our newly elected director, on

QRP.

Visit our Website **http://www.qsl.net/mrac/**

Our Phone (262) 797-MRAC

797 - 6 7 2 2

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695